

BACK TO PRABHUPADA

The magazine of the real Hare Krishna movement

Issue 18, Winter 2007/8

"Defeating tyranny in the realm of thought"

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ISKCON guru's *ritvik* manifesto revealed

Also in this issue:

GBC guru cover-up falls apart

**ISKCON leader denounces
guru system**

**Fighting the new tyranny
in South Africa**

**A chronological cornucopia
of confusion**



Iskcon Revival Movement

Even a bogus man can dress like a policeman



BACK TO PRABHUPADA

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Founded under the inspiration of
**His Divine Grace A.C.
Bhaktivedanta Swami
Prabhupada**, Founder-Acarya,
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Consciousness (ISKCON)

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Welcome to Issue 18 of *Back to Prabhupada (BTP)*. In this issue, on page 12, we highlight how due to the many years of IRM's preaching, one of ISKCON's leading gurus has been influenced and pushed to virtually advocate the same position we are proclaiming. Of course, being *Kali-yuga*, the Age of Hypocrisy, neither he nor other ISKCON gurus practise what he is preaching, but at least to admit we are correct is a start! This follows on from our revelation in the last issue that the GBC also accept that their guru system is not based on any hard evidence from Srila Prabhupada, but only wishful thinking. So the GBC are moving closer to the acceptance of what we have been preaching, and we can only hope that the practise of it may also one day follow, instead of ISKCON's polices continuing to be hopelessly mired in hypocrisy.

We have continually highlighted how the IRM's challenges and position papers cannot be answered. Indeed, the GBC were actually forced to withdraw their position paper, the very paper which the IRM's *The Final Order* rebutted. In fact, so impotent have ISKCON's leadership become in the face of our philosophical challenges that they have responded with the only tactic that tyrannies know: violence, censorship and bannings. Thus, every attempt is made to ensure that ISKCON followers do not have access to the IRM's literature, but very little attempt is made to try and answer our arguments.

Srila Prabhupada has stated that those who are members of his Krishna consciousness movement must know its philosophy and be able to answer its challenges:

"So your position is like that, simply if you have a *tilaka* and a *kanthi*, that does not mean that you belong to the

Krsna consciousness movement. Any cheater can do that. You must know the philosophy. If one challenges, you must reply. Therefore Bhaktivinoda Thakura has sung a song indicating these cheaters. He says, *ei oto ek kalir cela*. "Here is a servant of Kali." What kind of *cela*? *Na te tilal golai mala*. "He has got a *tilaka* and *golai mala*, *bas*, that's all." He does not know what is the philosophy. If you do not know the philosophy of Krsna consciousness, if you simply mark your body with *tilaka* and *kanthi*, then you are not proper servant, you are not qualified. So *tilaka*, *mala*, is necessary. Just like a policeman. A bogus man, if he dresses like a policeman, he is not a policeman. He must know what is the police law, criminal law, who is to be punished, who is not to be punished, what is criminality, what is innocence. All these things he must know."

(Srila Prabhupada Lecture, June 4th, 1976)

Similarly, ISKCON today cannot even answer the most fundamental question of "who is the Guru?" They are confused as to why they are gurus, how the guru should be addressed, how they should be worshipped, how they should be regulated, and so on. And they have no document which explains the philosophical basis for their guru system. The only thing they know for sure is: We WANT to be gurus, thank you very much. But such a child-like desire is not philosophy!

Rather, such ignorant guru hoaxers are like the "servants of Kali" mentioned in the passage quoted above. Sure, they may look like members of the Krishna consciousness movement, with their *tilaka* and neck-beads, but as soon as they have to answer philosophical questions they are exposed as cheaters. Their only response is to resort to name-call-

ing and instead scurry around trying to take *BTPs* away from devotees! Hardly a philosophical response.

So as Srila Prabhupada explains, a bogus man can dress as a policeman, and he can even hijack the police station. But he is still a cheater, unless he knows all the laws and facts regarding criminality. Similarly, just because a group of people have hijacked Srila Prabhupada's movement and masquerade dressed as, and claiming to be, followers of Srila Prabhupada, does not make them so. Rather, they must be able to answer very fundamental questions regarding the philosophy of Krishna consciousness, such as who is Guru, and why. Their expertise at screaming "this is offensive" and using violence does not prove anything except that they are not real members of the Krishna consciousness movement. It brings to mind the old adage that "better people think you are a fool, than for you to open your mouth and remove all doubt." *BTP* continues to document in every issue that as soon as the guru hoax advocates try to open their mouths and defend their hoax, they are immediately revealed to be speaking contradictory, false gibberish, thus revealing their status as cheaters, rather than members of the Krishna consciousness movement.

For *tilaka* and *mala* they may have, but answers they have none. The IRM, however, have been able to explain their position consistently with reference to Srila Prabhupada's orders.

Please feel free to write to me at the following address if you have any questions, criticisms or comments: irm@iskconirm.com.

Thank you and Hare Krishna.

Yours in the service of Srila Prabhupada,

Krishnakant



Letters to the editor

“Waited for this to happen for years. Thank you.”

- Sararupa Dasi, Florida, USA

“I have spoken with you and IRM devotees.....I have spoken with ISKCON devotees.....and I only had correct and right answers from IRM, the others always stop argumentation when it is so hard for them to answer with the truth, each time it is the same. So thank you very much that you do what you do and for having the courage to speak always the same way, the way of truth.”

- Laurent Demalvoisine, Richou, France

“Thank you very much. How can you improve upon perfection? So much deviation in this movement since His Divine Grace physically departed. It makes me sick their trying to change everything.”

- Roxanne King, West Virginia, USA

“Krishnakant and the IRM team are doing very valuable work for re-instating Srila Prabhupada in his original position as Diksa Guru for ISKCON. Certainly Srila Prabhupada is inspiring the IRM devotees to reveal this truth. Please go on doing what you are doing.”

- Gaura Das, Novembre Laroque d'Olives, France

“I met his Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada in Durban in 1975. We older devotees can see Srila Prabhupada being forgotten and replaced by dozens of gurus who are only after money, name and fame etc. Their motto, “No money, no blessing.” Thank you for opening my eyes. Haribol.”

- Satyaki Das, Durban, South Africa

“It is always difficult and challenging to stand firm in the path of so much opposition from people who are using the Movement to further their own ends. However, your strength and courage in pursuing the truth and exposing those who have deceived and let us all down, is very much appreciated and you have our continuing support. All glories to His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami

Prabhupada!”

- Rowena Lewis, Auckland, New Zealand

“Dear prabhuh, PAMHO, AGTSP. All glories again and again to the most vital and superexcellent service you are doing. In our humble opinion, based on 30 or more years experience as faithful disciples of Srila Prabhupada, ISKCON has been kidnapped and repeatedly raped by unscrupulous misleaders. Their personal behaviour has been seen to be ruthless, greedy, callous and destructive. There are, as you may know, hundreds and hundreds of sincere disciples of Srila Prabhupada who are now totally isolated and in exile as a result of both physical and emotional abuses they experienced at the merciless and “corporate ladder climbing” hands of those they once trusted. There are times we feel BTP is not doing enough and could resort to more aggressive tactics. Srila Prabhupada may not be physically visible to our materially contaminated vision, but one thing is certain - he is still in charge!!!... and encouraging all his “true” followers to fight for the absolute truth.”

- Richard Torreti, Radlett, England

“Thank you very much and YES, Gurudeva is all in all. To all the GBC: “His Mercy is all you were ever composed of!”

- Brian Woolley, Coventry, England

“Thank God for IRM, Back to Prabhupada Ki Jaya!”

- Carl Foster Brown, Stockport, England

“Your information is very eye opening for me. I didn't even know that you existed but I got a copy of your magazine from a friend and I am impressed and would like to learn more and help in any way I can. Hare Krishna.”

- Stephen King, Birmingham, England

“Hari Bol Krishnakant Prabhu, Pamho. All glories to HDG Srila Prabhupada. Thank you so much for your service of delivering truth. You know, prabhu - I am just so devastated and appalled at all this. The truth is best to know and live

by. But it sure is upsetting to find this stuff out. I was thinking back upon my days as a brahmachari in the asrama. The way they would talk about “the Ritviks” and make it seem like they were the ones that were so doing things against what Srila Prabhupada wanted. It's so absurd now to find out that they were the ones full of lies. I will never forget the night I read the BTP mag that has the ‘Real Hare Krsna Guru’ article in it. I was so shocked to see Srila Prabhupada's Last Will and Testament signed before me, saying that he's the only guru even after he passes. It's like the big ugly ISKCON secret. I love Srila Prabhupada and I'm involved at all in ISKCON because of Srila Prabhupada only. I love my guru but I can't help feeling deceived. I don't want to miss an issue. How can devotees be oblivious to Srila Prabhupada's signed Will? I just don't understand. Your servant,”

- Arka Devi Dasi, Georgia, USA

“I appreciate your noble efforts to save Srila Prabhupada's mission by enlightening the world that he is our spiritual master and eternal well-wishing friend. Without having a common spiritual father, how can we ever hope to feel spiritually united as Godbrothers and God sisters, and thus work together happily and cooperatively to give one another our support and to serve Srila Prabhupada?”

- Ajitananda Das, California, USA

“I'm a fairly new devotee to the ISKCON way of life, for about the last four years. I was initially captured by Srila Prabhupada's logical but common sense explanations about life and God. Yet being so new to this uplifting philosophy, I've always felt that something was truly amiss to make it complete. Because sometimes when I should ask questions to some senior devotees, to get a better understanding about the philosophy, I received a round-about answer that really never made complete sense

to me, but nevertheless out of respect I accepted the answers, but inside of me I sometimes felt still a bit troubled. I felt that seniors and sometimes some gurus (Krishna please forgive me) preached one thing but practiced something else. I felt sometimes that threats and fear was subtly preached in lectures to devotees and focus and love was directed more towards a guru maharaja than for Srila Prabhupada and Lord Krishna Themselves. By chance through another devotee friend I received a copy of Back to Prabhupada, Issue 13, Autumn 2006, and after reading some of the articles, most of these annoying questions that would ponder within me were answered. Many thanks, may Krishna bless you all immensely in continuing to do good work in expanding the true Krishna Conscious way of life. Hare Krishna.”

- Kris Moodley, Durban, South Africa

“Haribol!!! Keep up the good work!! You are a credit to Srila Prabhupada!! AGTSP!!”

- Viresh Lakhani, Leicester, England

“You are doing good work. Keep it up. I am a devotee of ISKCON, so I need this magazine of Prabhupada. Hare Krishna. All the best.”

- V. Syamananda Das, Andhra Pradesh, India

“Thank you prabhuji for letting us know the real truth.”

- Rajesh Shah, Thana, India

“Srila Prabhupada made a house for everyone, but some people make it a port.”

- Jeevraj a/k Ramiah, Selangor, Malaysia

“Satyam eva jayate. Truth always triumphs.”

- Kailash Sobrun, Port Louis, Mauritius

“Thank you for your commitment to His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada and carrying out the orders of HDG.”

- Sreejith U., Mumbai, India

“Thank you for your service. All glories to Srila Prabhupada...and Haribol!”

- Stefan Delarue, Antwerpen, Belgium

Letters to the editor *(continued from page 3)*

"I'm 16 years old in ISKCON and I would like to know the truth about the movement. Thank you."

- Adesh Bunomally Purwajit, Riviere, Mauritius

"The magazine sent to me seems to contain a lot of bitter truth which should be exposed to a lot of other devotees as well. The contents of the articles are important revelations."

- Srikantha Das, Plaine-Magnien, Mauritius

"Keep up the good work. All the best, we in Mauritius are with you. Sincerely yours,"

- Prabhu Sham Aubeeluck, Brisee Verdiere, Mauritius

"Very educative to know the truth as most of the temples and centres of ISKCON around the world are in crisis. The leaders, GBC members are doing nothing to resolve the problems cropping up. The future is very dark."

- Jayamangall Moon, Bon Accueil, Mauritius

"Keep the truth of Prabhupada coming. Hare Krishna."

- Kamal Sharma, Queensland, Australia

"Back To Prabhupada is a nice magazine.... hope by Prabhupada's mercy more truth will come."

- Tinathayalen, Penang, Malaysia

"Wonderful deeds can be done by Prabhupada, his words and true disciples. Pleasure to read Back to Prabhupada."

- L. Purushotham, Bangalore, India

"I'd like to form an IRM group in Bangladesh (Chittagong). Looking forward to your reply and wishing you the best of everything."

- Dr. Pranab Prasad Das, Chittagong, Bangladesh

"Keep up the good work as Srila Prabhupada asked us to."

- Bisessar, Rotterdam, Holland

"Back to Prabhupada magazine of the IRM is revealing the real purpose of Srila Prabhupada regarding ISKCON. The magazine is very enlightening and I wish IRM every success in showing us the path of truth."

- Raghuvir Das, Quatre Bornes, Mauritius

"Thank you very much for letting us know about the real things which are happening in Prabhupada's movement 'ISKCON'. Keep it up. Hari Bol."

- Pallavi Ghorbin, Petit Raffray, Mauritius

"You are doing a great service to Srila Prabhupada, thank you!"

- Lalloo Vedawaty, St. Andre, Mauritius

"Please accept my insignificant salute to you and all devotees. I have read Back to Prabhupada magazine and felt saddened by ISKCON's poor and dangerous performance. I miss the days when Back to Godhead was a true reflection of the genuine and very exciting feelings that it propagated. I learned about Lord Caitanya's teaching and pastimes when I was still young and had a fervent heart and hunger for Krishna, and remember crying when hearing Prabhupada's songs."

- Carlo Grimaldi, Oxfordshire, England

"I love what you are doing for Srila Prabhupada. Jaya!"

- Humberto Rodriguez, Louisiana, USA

"Thank you!"

- Mary Morales, British Columbia, Canada

"It takes a lot for me to feel right and proper with a saint; Prabhupada is my Guru."

- John Knight, Lancashire, England

"I greet you in the Divine Name. I read your booklet BTP and it inspired me with life and true shelter which I was not feeling. May the Divine Name help you as you deliver this message to the devotees."

- Evans Mpele Shogole, Louis Trichardt, South Africa

"Prabhupadaji will definitely help IRM. Hare Krishna."

- Sharad Kumar Khaitan, Kolkata, India

"I want to know the truth. I understand there is a need of revival in ISKCON."

- B. Suresh, Kerala, India

"Prabhupada's words will guide the world for 10,000 years. Thanks to him."

- Hemant Singh, Bangalore, India

"Thank you for sending me the Back To Prabhupada Special

Summary Issue. I've always been attracted to Srila Prabhupada, but I always felt uncomfortable when seeing worship of the current ISKCON gurus. Could you send me also a free hard copy of the book The Final Order please? Thank you very much! Hare Krishna!"

- Joery Gesquiere, Gent, Belgium

"This is a wonderful movement to bring PRABHUPADA at the center of ISKCON."

- Raghavendra Barad, Hubli, India

"Please accept my humble obeisances! Thanks so very much for the two BTPs I received. Yes, I am very much interested. Hare Krishna. Haribol!"

- Michael Zetzer, Butler, Pennsylvania, USA

"This Jayant Bhatt wants to be engaged in your divine service. I've just been sitting, doing nothing my whole life."

- Jayant Bhatt, Oxford, UK

"Hare Krsna. Please accept my humble obeisance to the One and Only Guru SRILA PRABHUPADA. All Glories to Him!! I love your magazine, and I hope it will exist for a long time. Keep up the good work."

- Ganapathi Das, Wormerveer, The Netherlands

"Send me BTP and make me happy."

- Sukumar Sana, Khulna, Bangladesh

"Thank you for your forum and honest perceptions."

- Quinton M. Burton, Florida, USA

"It's very nice to get a BTP copy, and I want to know much about ISKCON. I want to know the truth and life of Srila Prabhupada."

- Parvathi K, Bangalore, India

"You are doing a very great service. Srila Prabhupada would be pleased with your contribution."

- Dr. V. Sharma, New South Wales, Australia

"Hare Krishna. ISKCON Revival Movement - You are going on real path. Please inform about reality. I want The Final Order book in which Krishnakant has explained the reality of legal, philosophical and documentary evidence of Prabhupad

Swami."

- GK Surya, Gujarat, India

"You are doing a great service for our beloved spiritual master, His Divine Grace Srila Prabhupada, and humanity. Hare Krishna!"

- Janmasunya Devi Dasi, West Virginia, USA

"Hare Krishna Krishnakant, I like your work. You expose ISKCON sannyasis, and you give the new devotees of ISKCON the real Guru of ISKCON, Srila Prabhupada."

- Adideva Das, Uttranchal, India

"I love this magazine very much as it helped me a lot in building my strong faith towards truth & spiritualism. Please send me more BTP magazines. Thanks a lot."

- Kuldeep Pandey, Tirupati, India

"Found the magazine Back To Prabhupada very useful and informative."

- H.K. Seth, Mumbai, India

"You are doing real good work. It should reach every body in the world and also you are running on the path of truth. Srila Prabhupada, the true guru!"

- Harshad K., Belgaum, India

"Shocked to know the truth."

- Raghavendran Parthasarathy, London, UK

"I like this book."

- Guruprathap Singh, Abu Dhabi, UAE

"I really appreciated your opening letter in the BTP. You have your finger on the pulse of the issues. Keep up the good work. Thankfully no contact with guru hoaxers, in part thanks to you! Hare Krsna."

- Tom Wazney, Ohio, USA

"Just received and read the recent BTP 14. Excellent! Excellent work informing all misinformed and innocent devotees that they can still have direct and personal instruction from Srila Prabhupada. Unfortunately for those of us in this Kali-yuga, we just don't get a pure acarya every generation, or every 500 years either for that matter. Your servant,"

- Nimai Dasa, Miaoli City, Taiwan

"Thank you for everything."

- Robert Currie, Galashiels, Scotland

Quotes, Notes and News (QNN)

Demigod worship takes root

Following the revelations in previous *BTP* issues of demigod worship in ISKCON, it really does seem as if this is becoming a regular occurrence. In the photograph opposite, we see that a picture of Lord Shiva and his consort Parvati had been added on to the altar on Siva-ratri 2007, (the main celebration event for Lord Shiva), at the ISKCON temple in Zurich, Switzerland. Yet Srila Prabhupada never sanctioned demigod worship in ISKCON temples:

"You know that we have refused even the Hindu people to hold demigod worship in our temple"

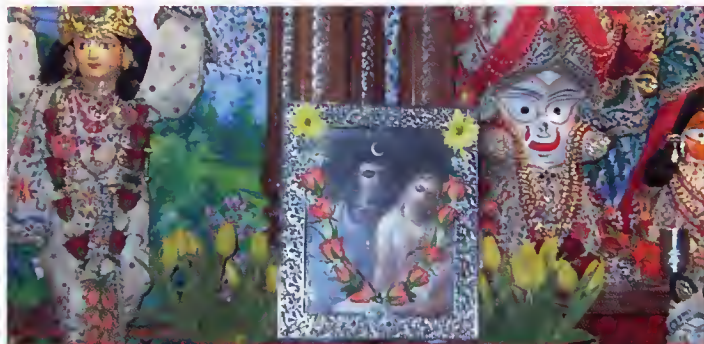
(Srila Prabhupada Letter, 10/10/68)

BTP forces ISKCON guru to change his biography

In *BTP* 16, we exposed the hypocrisy of HH Kadamba Kanana Swami ("KKS") by quoting the following from his website (archived in April 2007), proving that he is breaking the very "law of disciplic succession" which he preaches:

"HH Jayadvaita Swami requested his disciple to become an initiating spiritual master, although generally by etiquette one will not initiate in the physical presence of his own spiritual master."

Following our exposé, the above sentence has now been removed by KKS from his website! As if that will make any difference to his cheating, whereby he preaches one thing and practices another. Readers will note, however, that successive issues of *BTP* have compelled the GBC to withdraw a book of one its unauthorised gurus (see QNN, issues 15 and 17), and has now persuaded another such guru to amend his life story! We can only hope that they will now see fit to make the *ultimate* change, and restore Srila Prabhupada to his position as ISKCON's only authorised initiating Guru.



Lord Shiva's picture appears on the altar at ISKCON Zurich

ISKCON leader attacks BTP for his "foolishness"

In *BTP* 16, we defended Srila Prabhupada from ISKCON leader Kripamoya Das ("KMD") stating that the "Vedic system" was that the Guru *"must personally speak the mantra (gayatri) into the ear of the disciple at the time of initiation"*; meaning that Srila Prabhupada was a deviant who did not follow the "Vedic system", as Srila Prabhupada often used a tape recording of himself speaking the *mantra* - such as at the initiation of KMD himself! Realising his foolishness at making such a statement, KMD does what is now standard ISKCON practise for those caught making erroneous philosophical statements. Unable to defend his foolish statement, he instead writes an article attacking us for daring to expose his foolish statement, because as he is a devotee:

"we vilify or make a fool of that devotee at our peril!"

(Kripamoya Das, *The Vaishnava Voice*, October 20th, 2007)

Thus, KMD does not deny his foolishness, but rather concedes it by objecting that *BTP* made him look like a "fool". However, it is he who made a fool of himself, by writing his foolish statements attacking Srila Prabhupada's system of initiation in the first place!

In addition, in the same article, to show how "reasonable" he is, KMD writes that he is **"all for philosophical debate and free expression"**. Yet

as a Temple Council member of Bhaktivedanta Manor, he is party to banning IRM members, whom he describes as "thoughtful and intelligent" and "sincere devotees of Srila Prabhupada", in order to suppress this "free expression". He even has the gall to add that **"we should all be thankful that we live in a part of the world where such freedoms are possible"**. Obviously, his own temple is not a part of the world where such freedoms are possible! And then rounding off his supreme hypocrisy, he claims that we respond *"somewhat contemptuously"*. Clearly, in KMD's "world", the 'non-contemptuous' response is to ban people from worshipping the Supreme Lord altogether!

The real state of the movement

"It seems that 96% of initiated disciples in ISKCON do not live in our temples. What this means is that we are without doubt no longer an 'international confederation of temples, restaurants and farms' - something we often mention to the public when they ask us what we are ..."

(Kripamoya Das, ISKCON European Council Chairman, *The Vaishnava Voice*, July 20th, 2007)

"In the UK's Bhaktivedanta Manor, although the number of ashram residents remains relatively high compared to

the rest of the world, most of the voluntary single staff have been replaced by employed householders receiving a stipend. Many ashram bunks are occupied not by local recruits but by devotees migrating from India, Russia and Eastern Europe." (Rasamanadala Das, Co-ordinator, ISKCON Educational Services, 40 Years of Chant and Change, 2007)

"Compared to during Srila Prabhupada's time, ISKCON is stagnant. When you go to the West, you see Indians manning the temples. This means that Westerners are not joining, and Indians, because it is their thing, are joining despite our lack of preaching." ('Insights from Bhakti Caru Swami', Krishna Kripa Das, March 24th, 2007)

"My observation of preaching in America is that our temples seem to be stuck in the mood of maintenance rather than preaching. [...] A lot of the emphasis is on Deity worship and preaching to the Indian population. [...] I think that we are failing to reach the Western population." (Candramauli Swami, Sannyasa Report 2006-07)

1) An ISKCON leader is admitting that ISKCON misleads the public regarding the actual state of the movement. This should not be surprising since they already mislead everyone regarding the most important fact about the movement - that Srila Prabhupada is its Guru!

2) Bhaktivedanta Manor is said to have more devotees than most other ISKCON temples, and yet is itself staffed largely by 'third world' migrants and salaried employees, and thus other ISKCON temples must be in an even worse state.

3) Westerners are no longer attracted to the movement, only Indians.

GBC's 25 year guru cover-up falls apart

We have reported previously on how the numerous guru falldowns in ISKCON usually follow the same "cover-up" pattern: First, the fall-down is kept hidden and swept under the carpet for as long as possible; then, when this is no longer completely possible, the news is "managed"; finally, when their hand is forced, the GBC has no choice but to reveal all, before it comes out anyway.

A recent egregious and most shocking example of this dynamic in action was the recent fall from grace of yet another of the GBC's unauthorised gurus, as announced by the GBC in September 2007:

"The GBC Executive Committee, after much deliberation and consultation, has no alternative but to sadly report the deviations of and the abuses to devotees carried out by Balabhadra dasa (ACBSP), previously known as Bhakti Balabh Puri Goswami."
(GBC Statement, September 17th, 2007)

(All subsequent quotes will be excerpted from this announcement).

The falldown

"In the name of 'helping' two female disciples he performed many explicit sexual and voyeuristic acts by exploiting the obedience of his female disciples [...] Balabhadra dasa has admitted that he thought of himself as a personal associate of Lord Caitanya and/or Krsna. In addition, his conception of guru was one in which he was the proprietor of his disciples, of ISKCON's assets and especially of ISKCON Scotland's monies."

So the absolute worship that ISKCON gurus demand on a daily basis went straight to Balabhadra's head. He indulged in an orgy of abuse as he lived off the hard labour of his disciples whilst lord-

ing it over everything and everyone around him. Srila Prabhupada has this to say about such a mentality:

"Anyone who is in the material world is certainly possessed of the impure propensity for lording it over material nature, or, in other words, for sense gratification. Such polluted propensities have to be cleared. Without doing so, through prescribed duties, one should never attempt to become a so-called transcendentalist, renouncing work and living at the cost of others."
(Bhagavad-gita As It Is, 3.8 purport)

We knew he was off 25 years ago

So did all these "lording it over" traits suddenly manifest overnight, with the GBC immediately jumping in to rescue the hapless subordinates of this raving deviant?:

"Balabhadra dasa was always eccentric and even in the early 80's showed a penchant for cars, cameras and handling money."

So the GBC knew, for at least a quarter of a century, that this man was "eccentric" and highly materialistic, and yet still voted him in as a good-as-God guru for ISKCON.

It got worse, but we still kept quiet

"The death of his wife seemed to be a visible turning point in his life. His sadhana deteriorated, his bodily weight increased and he became increasingly involved in the lives of his female disciples, despite his having entered the renounced order. There was a "special" relationship with one female disciple, who was the person with whom he later, repeatedly fell down."

Balabhadra's wife died on December 28th, 1994. This means the GBC allowed a man they always knew was an eccentric ma-

terialist, and who was then observed deteriorating further for approximately thirteen years, to pose himself as a bona fide guru and personal associate of God Himself.

It got even worse

"Over three years ago Balabhadra dasa's sexual abuse of his female disciple came to light and in investigating that abuse, a Pandora's box of equally serious deviations gradually came to light, all of which were made known to the GBC Executive."

The obvious question here is whether, once Balabhadra's horrendous sexual abuse came fully to light, the GBC then finally woke up and did something to warn his disciples?

But luckily only one person knew

"Until this year, the only devotee in Scotland aware of all the deviations and subsequent restrictions on Balabhadra dasa was the temple president, Prabhupada Vani dasa. Others thought he had semi-retired for health reasons. In the beginning of the year news gradually leaked to other senior devotees and since that time we have had many meetings to inform and then help those disciples."

So even after the GBC knew the full horror of what their voted in guru was doing, they were happy that only one disciple, Prabhupada Vani Das, knew the truth. All the other disciples and large congregation were kept completely in the dark. Why the reluctance to go public and bring Balabhadra to justice for his various illicit acts? That the members of the committee who dealt with him and compiled the report, **Sivarama Swami** and **B.B.**



Balabhadra Das / Bhakti Balabh Puri Goswami in his heyday

Govinda Maharaja, reportedly received substantial donations from Balabhadra Das for their projects, is of course purely coincidental!

The thieves finally part company

But what was the final straw that led to the GBC making public Balabhadra's crimes?:

"... if he chose to do as he liked, his case would be made public in order to protect devotees of the Society from him. [...] Since Balabhadra dasa is now his own man [...] he will seek to raise funds from the international society of devotees who should be informed that supporting him is not supporting any ISKCON approved project or person."

It is perfectly clear that Balabhadra had been doing "as he liked" for decades, and yet the GBC had never tried to "protect the devotees". But the big difference was that now he would not be giving his GBC buddies a slice of whatever money he was able to sponge off the labour of others. Only once this became clear did the GBC decide to "protect the devotees" by throwing him out of ISKCON. In this way, they can simply install a new false Lord to carry on the money generating project that has helped sustain their bogus guru program.

Guru falldown confusion lays hoax bare

The falldown of high-profile ISKCON guru Bhakti Balabh Puri Goswami / Balabhadra Das (just described) has bewildered ISKCON's leadership more than its usual level of bewilderment, with its response to the latest guru crisis merely confirming that we are dealing not with a one-off event, but rather the symptom of a monumental hoax. We detail here some of these responses:

It's a "disaster" and "incompatible"

ISKCON European Council Chairman and UK Congregational Preaching Director, His Grace Kripamoya Das, recently declared the following in reaction to this latest falldown:

"However, the facts of the matter are that repeatedly, and with disastrous consequences, the combination of the spiritual role of guru in the context of a temporally powerful organisation is proving to be incompatible."

(Kripamoya Das, "Keeping Good Men Good", *The Vaishnava Voice*, September 21st, 2007)

Thus, Kripamoya prabhu has clearly stated here that ISKCON's guru system is proving to be incompatible with the ISKCON institution as established by Srila Prabhupada; which, of course, means that the ISKCON guru system was never authorised by Srila Prabhupada in the first place, and hence establishing such a system will naturally have, and continue to have, disastrous consequences.

Best not be a guru

GBC voted-in guru hoaxer HH Sivarama Swami ("SRS") conveys how disciples of the fallen Balabhadra Das must be feeling:

"...devotees are often a little stumped thinking, 'well, if someone who has been practicing Krishna consciousness for

such a long time can become so misled then what of me?'"
(SRS podcast, September 27th, 2007)

The answer, he says, is to not be a guru at all!

"One aspect of the answer, it is quite fortunate that devotees who ask those questions aren't in a position of guruship, or leadership, or sannyasa; in other words, being a humble simple Vaishnava is a very safe position to be in and although there may be what some call perks in taking leadership roles, but there are also very high stakes. So if we just stay as humble Vaishnavas [...] being able to hear from other devotees and accept the guidance and direction, they will certainly advance in Krishna consciousness."

(SRS podcast, September 27th, 2007)

So, having trumpeted for years that it was Srila Prabhupada's order that actually "everyone be guru", a GBC member and ISKCON guru is now saying that actually the best and safest thing is that one not be a guru at all, but rather one just continue being a humble, non-guru Vaishnava if one wants to be sure of advancing! What is particularly amusing is that he says that part of this humble, non-guru Vaishnava program is:

"being able to hear from other devotees and accept the guidance and direction"

which is rich coming from SRS, since he is partly responsible for the mess in the first place, having continually sponsored and promoted Balabhadra Das as being a bona fide guru all throughout the latter's 25 years of deviation, having given him *sannyasa* and fettered him as a regular guest of honour at his farm in Hungary. And earlier, SRS promoted Jayatirtha and then Bhagavan (two more fallen gurus), and then Narayana Maharaja of the Gaudiya Matha, before being forced to retract his support for him. Given this track

record, SRS should be the last person a disciple with a fallen guru should be taking advice from!

Wizard Sivarama Swami brews up new semi-initiation

However, on the contrary, SRS has decided to come to the "rescue" of Balabhadra's hapless disciples, offering his "shelter" to them as their new "guru", by allowing them to take an initiation ceremony from him again. Or maybe not; since SRS himself is not sure what exactly he is doing whilst he is "initiating" them:

"I'm thinking of a name to give it because I didn't want to call it a reinitiation, [...] we had a ceremony in which those devotees who wanted a new name, they received a new name and all the brahmanas received the gayatri mantra again and we had a fire ceremony. [...] I'm not calling it a reinitiation ceremony [...] and I am going to propose that even that terminology, sort of, is dropped at least in official ISKCON circles. The reason I say that the word 'reinitiation' is not so suitable is because these devotees they didn't do anything that required them to be reinitiated [...] I emphasized the difference between the situation of these devotees and a devotee who is newly initiated, and although I chanted on their beads, gave them new beads, and those who requested new names [...] I discussed it earlier with Niranjana Maharaja and the conclusion was that they already took vows, their vows were intact by dint of their service."

(SRS podcast, September 27th, 2007)

Ever since gurus started falling in ISKCON since the guru hoax program was instituted in 1978, hapless disciples of these fallen devotees have been "reinitiated" by new gurus, so that some disciples today are on their 3rd or even



HH Sivarama Swami:
Brewing another bogus concoction

4th gurus. Indeed, SRS himself has taken a leading role in conducting such "reinitiations". Now he claims that reinitiation is not necessary at all, since the disciples of the fallen guru were innocent. Which obviously means he has been misleading all the many devotees he previously initiated. Instead, all these devotees go through the same ceremony again, except their vows, but it's not reinitiation, and it's not first initiation either; indeed SRS admits it needs a new name! With a wave of his wizard wand, SRS has invented a brand new "semi-initiation", a half-way house between the first initiation he himself gives to new devotees, and the reinitiation he also gave to so many devotees in the past. Such confusing concoctions are the natural result when one tries to deal with a hoax that has begun to fall apart. Having tried "re-initiation" for so many years as the way to deal with all their fallen gurus, will the GBC now adopt wizard SRS's new "semi-initiation" as the latest way to patch up their broken guru system?

Conclusion

The choice before us is clear. We can either immediately return back to Srila Prabhupada as the Guru of ISKCON, which is not only the *only* safe position, but also what he ordered. Or we can continue to be entangled in this madness and confusion (please see also page 14), being bounced from one concocted system to another as our GBC wizards brew up the latest "solution" to their self-created guru crisis!

Fighting the new tyranny in South Africa



COMING TO
PRABHUPADA

By
Sean Redpath
Johannesburg,
South Africa

My earliest memories of spiritual education take me back to the age of about five. Although my parents were Catholic, I was sent along to a nearby Baptist Church for Sunday school. I loved hearing stories from the Bible and enjoyed the playful way in which they were related. My parents, however, became dissatisfied with the judgmental, damning nature of the pastor of the church and so a few years later they decided to enter me into Catechism classes at the Catholic Church. Whereas before there had been fun and playfulness, I was met with formality, doctrine and tradition. I tried to find meaning in the starkness of the religion, but only found contradiction and hypocrisy. When I reached my twenties I broke away from Catholicism and Christianity altogether, exploring New Age and Eastern philosophies. I tried some yoga classes and took a course in Transcendental Meditation, but nothing brought me fulfilment. The sense of meaninglessness remained.

It was when I was a first year acting student at university that I was first approached by someone on the streets of Johannesburg distributing Prabhupada's Books. I don't remember much about the encounter, but I did take the book and placed it on my bookshelf at home, where it would stay closed for the next 11 years. It was only several years later when I was living in London that I came to know more about the Hare Krishna movement. I had not pursued my acting career as intended when I got to London and instead found myself working in various other jobs in order to pay my way in the city. So it was while working as a

sales assistant for a store just off Regent Street that I began to frequent Govinda's restaurant at the Soho Street Temple. I had been vegetarian for about 10 years by that time and it seemed convenient to walk round to Govinda's for my lunch breaks.

I had before this time encountered a few devotees on the streets of London doing *Harinama* (chanting) and book distribution, and had once or twice conversed with them, but I still knew very little about the movement. The *mahamantra* I had heard before thanks to Boy George's '90's pop song 'Bow Down Mister', but that was about it. The devotees were very few in numbers and only a couple of them British. The majority appeared to come from Eastern Europe or South America. What was most noticeable for me was that of all the devotees I encountered at the Restaurant not one looked all that happy. There was often a sort of vacant, glazed look in their eyes.

Since I was lunching daily at the restaurant I would occasionally pick up one of the books that were set on the tables for reading. It was in this way that I became interested in and finally bought a copy of *The Perfection of Yoga*. In the months that followed I bought several of the small books and even got my hands on a copy of the *Srimad-Bhagavatam*, 1st canto part 1, which a friend of mine had been persuaded to accept from a devotee on the street, but had passed on to me.

It was by this time well over a year that I had been visiting the restaurant on a daily basis. One devotee kept trying to get me to come to the Sunday program, but I resisted. As much as I loved what I was reading in Prabhupada's books, and wanted to become involved with living this philosophy, there was something about what I was seeing at the

Temple that was putting me off, although I couldn't quite put my finger on exactly what this was. Nevertheless, I eventually convinced myself to go to an evening lecture at the Temple. This served only to add to the sense of estrangement that I was experiencing. Unlike when Prabhupada spoke, the man who ascended the *Vyasasana* (Guru's seat) to give the lecture had no authority or power. It was worlds away from what I was experiencing from reading one of Prabhupada's books. Still, I persisted and went back to a few more lectures, even attending a Sunday programme or two, but I could not shake the feeling.

Then one day I was stopped on the corner of Oxford Street near to the Temple by a man who appeared to be a regular temple devotee distributing books. It was actually an IRM devotee, Madhusudana Das, and he related to me the details of the Guru Hoax. This was surprising, for as my involvement with ISKCON had been minimal, I was not even aware that there was any other Guru besides Srila Prabhupada! So the very thought of anyone posing themselves in Prabhupada's place seemed preposterous and highly sacrilegious to me. Since I was raised in Christianity I was quite familiar with the idea that a spiritual master continues to live on to guide and instruct his followers after his physical disappearance. The *ritvik* system established by Prabhupada made perfect sense to me, whereas the concocted systems of the GBC just seemed absurd. I accepted the *BTP* from him and after reading it that evening I emailed Krishnakant (*BTP* editor) and asked what I could do to help restore Prabhupada to his rightful place as Guru of ISKCON.

I was subsequently invited to an IRM meeting in London where I was fortunate enough to meet with Krishnakant. This for me was

the first time I had really met with true devotees; disciples of Srila Prabhupada. Formal initiation or not, there was the experience of what I had read about in the books. It was due to my association with the devotees in the IRM that I began to chant regularly, to the point where I am now chanting 16 rounds a day. Over the few months that followed I read all the back issues of *BTP* and many of the papers on the IRM website to become familiar with their position. I think I have been very fortunate in that I was never allowed to become involved with ISKCON, and at that point where I might have I was brought to the IRM. I am in many ways a neophyte to Krishna Consciousness, but one thing I have always known is that Prabhupada is the only Guru in ISKCON.

It had for some time been my intention to return to my home country of South Africa at the end of 2006, and so Krishnakant and I began discussions of what work I could do upon my return. I had been living away for almost eight years by this time so this was all going to be new territory for me. When I landed back in South Africa in December 2006, one of the first things I did was seek out the Johannesburg Hare Krishna Temple to assess the state of affairs. I soon discovered that there was no longer a Hare Krishna temple in Johannesburg, but that it had been closed down 7 years ago due to financial difficulties, I would later be told. I learned that there were now only two temples remaining in the entire province, one in a small town just south of Johannesburg inhabited almost entirely by Indians and Muslims, and the other in the neighbouring city of Pretoria.

In South Africa the Hare Krishna movement has now become almost synonymous with Hinduism. You will be lucky to find



any ethnicity other than Indian in the temples. My visits to both these temples and a youth group run from the home of an ISKCON member all testified to this. I attended programs and meetings at all the above mentioned venues for a few months, quietly observing. Apart from these weekly programs there was no activity. No book distribution, no *Harinama*, no noticeable presence whatsoever in this city of over 3 million people. When I questioned family and friends, all replied that they had not seen the Hare Krishnas out for many years now.

So it was no surprise that when one evening I appeared at the youth group to hand out *BTP* magazines, I was met with hostility. In the space of a few minutes the father of a teenage girl was yelling at me from the seat of his car, threatening to have me removed. The following day I received similar threats from the youth group leader who promptly banned me from the youth group as long as I continued with my action of distributing *BTP*. With the political history of South Africa you might think that attempts to inhibit freedom of expression are a thing of the past, but in ISKCON the censorship continues.

Devotees in Johannesburg and Pretoria area are still very much under the control of ISKCON. *Maya* (the illusory energy) has so deluded them that they fail to see how Prabhupada's once glorious movement has been reduced to an Indian social club. Or if they are aware of it they will accept whatever reason ISKCON leaders feed them to explain this. But this is not the way that Prabhupada teaches us to act. He tells us to inquire, to find answers to all questions, not to blindly accept anything.

Thankfully, the IRM is expanding in South Africa. We now have a core group of devotees who are working to ensure that every person in ISKCON is given the opportunity to read *BTP* and *The Final*

Order. Recently we were fortunate enough to attend a 5 day induction seminar in Durban, which was given by Krishnakant, accompanied by Madhusudana and Len *prabhus* from London. I would encourage IRM devotees the world over to invite Krishnakant to do the same in your country. We need to be organised in order to defeat the bogus leaders of ISKCON. We all need to understand what the aim of the IRM is and how we are to go about achieving this. And this requires organisation. Although the IRM does not ask any money of us, we should be ready to use our money to achieve the aims of the IRM. The money is not ours, after all; it belongs to Krishna. We would not have it if it were not for Krishna. So it should be utilized in the service of Krishna and his bona fide representative whom the IRM serves – Srila Prabhupada.

Since the IRM is not yet established in Johannesburg, this is to be my mission. As I am a neophyte it is important that we establish here in Johannesburg a core group of devotees dedicated to executing the mission of the IRM, who also provide association for each other. Being an actor means I spend many hours a day engaged in secular activity, so *sadhu-sanga* (devotee association) is something I value very highly. I am most grateful that we have the technology of internet and telephone communication as this allows us to maintain a worldwide community. In a society that revolves around money, intoxicants, sex, and self indulgence we need to establish ourselves as a community that upholds spiritual life as Prabhupada teaches us. ISKCON, as Prabhupada created it, is the perfect society in which to achieve this. That is why to me the single most important thing to do is to revive ISKCON by reinstating Prabhupada as the sole *diksha* Guru. And since the IRM is the only group dedicated to this purpose, then serving through



the IRM is the only way to please Srila Prabhupada.

For me the mission is simple. Give everyone the opportunity to know the truth. How? Distribute the *BTP* magazine. This is all we have to do. Everything follows on from this. My intention is to distribute *BTP* to all members of the Johannesburg and Pretoria temples who will willingly accept it. I am currently in the process of sourcing legal aid to ensure that our distribution of this important literature is not hindered. Every member of ISKCON has the right to read *BTP* for themselves and make an informed decision. It is said that South Africa has one of the most liberal constitutions of all countries in the world and our aim is to utilize this to safeguard the devotees of the IRM from potential hostility from ISKCON members. We must move forward with intelligence. While ISKCON resorts to thug tactics, we must organise and utilize whatever non-violent means are at our disposal to succeed in this mission.

With the ever-increasing steadfastness and strength I have found in Krishna Consciousness, I have succeeded in re-establishing myself as an actor. I am now fortunate enough to be working with some of South Africa's top stage and screen actors, directors and producers. Large scale musical productions are now flood-

“With the political history of South Africa you might think that attempts to inhibit freedom of expression are a thing of the past, but in ISKCON the censorship continues... Thankfully, the IRM is expanding in South Africa.”

ing our stages and the burgeoning film industry signals a new era where South African performers are ranked among the best in the world. The work is challenging and often very demanding, but the knowledge that such a profession can prove extremely useful to the mission of the IRM spurs me on.

Krishna Consciousness cannot be practiced at home in isolation. We must work together. There is great strength in numbers. Knowing the Truth is not enough. Once we know the Truth we become responsible for ensuring that the Truth is made known to all. I take this as my personal mission. In whatever way I can I must work to ensure that others in ISKCON are saved from the spiritual deception that is occurring in the name of Srila Prabhupada. It is only by the mercy of Krishna and the service of the IRM devotees that I came to know the truth about ISKCON, and what greater thanks and service can be offered than to extend this mercy to others. It is the service that matters, not the result. That is in the hands of Krishna. To use Prabhupada's own words:

“...even if one man becomes a pure devotee of the Lord we shall consider our attempt a success.”

All glories to Srila Prabhupada!

Readers are cordially invited to follow Bhakta Sean's example by sending us your story of just how you came 'Back to Prabhupada'.

Cheaters and the cheated: Srila Prabhupada describes the fate of disciples of false gurus

Following the falldown of yet another ISKCON guru (please see page 6), we present below Srila Prabhupada's warnings about the consequences of accepting unauthorised gurus. Hence, best to stay fixed with the only Guru that Srila Prabhupada recommended for ISKCON - himself!

Going to hell without a doubt

"As for your next question, can only a few pure devotees deliver others, anyone, if he is a pure devotee he can deliver others, he can become spiritual master. But unless he is on that platform he should not attempt it. Then both of them will go to hell, like blind men leading the blind."

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, December 14th, 1972)

"Leaders who have fallen into ignorance and who mislead people by directing them to the path of destruction [as described in the previous verse] are, in effect, boarding a stone boat, and so too are those who blindly follow them. A stone boat would be unable to float and would sink in the water with its passengers. Similarly, those who mislead people go to hell, and their followers go with them."

(Srimad-Bhagavatam 6.7.14)

"And the rascal, blind leaders are leading everyone to hell. They are simply misleaders. People do not like to accept any authority. Still, they have accepted these ras-

cals as leaders and are being misled. In this way both the rascal leaders and their unfortunate followers remain bound up by the stringent laws of material nature."

(The Laws of Nature, chapter 1)

"Generally a fashionable materialist engages a so-called spiritual master without any profit. The pseudo spiritual master flatters the so-called disciple, and thereby both the master and his ward go to hell without a doubt."

(Srimad-Bhagavatam 1.19.37, purpart)

God sends a cheater to the insincere

Srila Prabhupada: "If you simply want an ordinary education, you have to devote so much time, labor, and understanding to it. Similarly, if you are going to take to spiritual life, you must become serious."

Reporter: "I wondered how many people you think might have been taken in by fake gurus."

Srila Prabhupada: "Practically everyone. [Laughter.] There is no question of counting. Everyone."

Reporter: "This would mean thousands of people, wouldn't it?"

Srila Prabhupada: "Millions. Millions have been cheated, because they want to be cheated. God is omniscient. He can understand your desires. He is within your heart, and if you want to be cheated, God sends you a cheater."

(The Science of Self-Realization, chapter 2)

"Guru is there, but unless you are actually serious, you cannot get real guru. If you want to be cheated or if you are a cheater, then you'll get a cheater guru."

(Srila Prabhupada Raam Conversation, January 8th, 1977)

Innocence is no excuse

"Innocence is no excuse of law. [...] So you have to become such intelligent person that you may not be misled by others. You have got the intelligence. Why should you be misled? Then what is the meaning of this human form of life? And you have to be educated. You have to take the opportunity of education so that you may not be misled. Why do you agree to be misled? Then you must agree to take the punishment also."

(Srila Prabhupada Lecture, June 23rd, 1968)

No benefit or happiness in accepting a false guru

"The misguided conditioned soul also approaches so-called sadhus and swamis who preach against the principles of the Vedas. He does not receive benefit from them, either in the present or in the future."

(Srimad-Bhagavatam 5.14.13)

"One cannot become happy by accepting a false guru. A guru should be accepted as advised in Srimad-Bhagavatam. Tasmad gurum prapadyeta jijnasuh sreya ut-

tamam: One should approach a bona fide guru to inquire about the highest benefit of life. (...) If one is able to obtain the dust of the lotus feet of such a guru, his life becomes successful. Otherwise he is baffled both in this life and in the next."

(Srimad-Bhagavatam 5.14.13, purpart)

Not too late to accept Srila Prabhupada

"So if you are misled, if you are cheated, whose fault it is? But if you want to be cheated, who can check? Even though somebody by mistake has gone to a rascal, the book is there. As soon as you find out, 'Here is a rascal who does not know anything about Krsna, and I have come to him,' reject him."

(Srila Prabhupada Raam Conversation, January 31st, 1977)

"Here, accepting Krsna as the spiritual master means whatever Krsna will decide, he has to accept. One cannot deny the order of a spiritual master. Therefore one has to select a spiritual master whose order, carrying, you'll not commit a mistake. You see? Now, suppose if you accept a wrong person as spiritual master, and if you, if he guides you wrongly, then your whole life is spoiled. So one has to accept a spiritual master whose guidance will make his life perfect. That is the relation between spiritual master and disciple. It is not a formality. It is a great responsibility both for the disciple and for the spiritual master."

(Srila Prabhupada Lecture, March 2, 1966)

IRM Mission Statement

Since the physical departure of His Divine Grace A. C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada from our material vision on November 14th 1977, the International Society For Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON), the great movement which he single-handedly founded in 1966, and which is the only hope for humanity, has undergone a massive deterioration in its spiritual purity. This has been due to various deviations from the instructions and standards given by Srila Prabhupada, the chief of which being his displacement as the sole diksa Guru for ISKCON. The ISKCON Revival Movement (IRM) seeks to restore ISKCON to its former glory, purity and philosophical chastity through the re-institution of all the instructions and standards that Srila Prabhupada gave, beginning with his role as the sole authority and diksa Guru for ISKCON. The IRM's position is set out in *The Final Order* - see back page to order your free copy.





Readers' questions and challenges

"Thank you for sending me BTP regularly. Your undertaking is laudable. [...] You have cited Srila Lokanath Swami in issue 15, wherein you express your disapproval of Swamiji's autographing Srila Prabhupada's books. In signing the books, he is not claiming authorship of the scriptures but just satisfying the wishes of the people. Moreover he was signing on behalf of Prabhupada."

-Chandra Shekhar Das, Mauritius

Editor replies:

Thank you. Firstly, you state: "In signing the books, he is not claiming authorship of the scriptures but just satisfying the wishes of the people." Please note that a bona fide spiritual master acts only to satisfy his Guru and the disciplic succession, not the *vox populi*. On the contrary, Srila Prabhupada warns against such a so-called "guru":

"He's most dangerous. He's most dangerous. He is opportunist. He's finding out customer, something here...According to the customer he is giving something, as the customers will be pleased. So he is not guru. He's a servant. He wants to serve the so-called disciples so that he may be satisfied and pay him something. He's servant. He's not guru."

(Srila Prabhupada Conversation, June 28th, 1976)

You further state in your letter:

"Moreover he was signing on behalf of Prabhupada."

This is the clever bait-and-switch tactics of the ISKCON gurus we have repeatedly highlighted in BTP; they claim to do everything "on behalf of Prabhupada" EXCEPT the one thing they were ordered to do "on behalf of Prabhupada":

"...continue to become *ritvik* and act on my behalf."

(Srila Prabhupada Letter, July 31st, 1977)

"When we hear how wonderful HH Radhanath Swami Maharaj is doing his service for Srila Prabhupada (Chowpatty centre), where is the fault? So how do you justify that HH Radhanath Swami Maharaj is not doing service for Srila Prabhupada?"

-Shrihari Das, Solapur, India

Editor replies:

You can only do service for Srila Prabhupada if you obey him. Disobeying him is a *disservice*, not service. Now, did Srila Prabhupada order that when people come to Krishna consciousness: They accept Srila Prabhupada or Radhanath Swami as their Guru? They offer their *prasadam* via Srila Prabhupada or Radhanath? They worship Srila Prabhupada or Radhanath daily and at *Vyasa-puja*? The fault is that we are not obeying Srila Prabhupada's orders. During the "zonal *acharya*" years, the zonal gurus such as Kirtanananda, whom Radhanath followed loyally even after he was thrown out of ISKCON, also had much success in attracting people to ISKCON, probably more than Radhanath. Indeed, some of the key leaders of Radhanath's group, who are largely responsible for the "success" of the ISKCON Chowpatty project, were all recruited by Kirtanananda. So we must judge based not on how many people are being attracted to Radhanath, but how many are actually being attracted to following the correct path as given by Srila Prabhupada. Otherwise you may as well say that the *sahajiyas* who are attracting many to chant Hare Krishna are also serving Srila Prabhupada. If you remove Srila Prabhupada's order from the equation, then you can say everyone and anyone is successful. Thus service to Srila Prabhupada must be based on following Srila Prabhupada's orders, otherwise it is not service.

"I learn some interesting things from your magazine, which I appreciate. But I see that the guru issue will never be resolved. [...] Now, the question is, what can we do to really please Srila Prabhupada? Increase the dissent inside and outside his movement? I don't think so."

-Rudradeva Das, Albettone, Italy

Editor replies:

You have correctly asked: "what can we do to really please Srila Prabhupada?"

So, can Srila Prabhupada be pleased if we have kicked him out of his own movement? And can he be pleased if we disobey him? Therefore, can you please show us where Srila Prabhupada stated that the 11 people he authorised on July 9th, 1977 to act as his *ritvik* representatives to accept all future newcomers to ISKCON on his behalf, should become *diksa* guru successors? Unless you can state this instruction from Srila Prabhupada, then the *ritvik* system he set up remains, and we are currently mass disobeying Srila Prabhupada in ISKCON today.

Please understand that without such a modifying instruction from Srila Prabhupada, we have committed the greatest disobedience and offence to him by removing him as the *acharya* from his own Society, and you can not expect us to disobey Srila Prabhupada.

You say the guru issue will never be resolved. Unless you can send us the modifying instruction asked for, it is already resolved, only people do not yet know; just as the position of Krishna as given in the *Bhagavad-gita* is also resolved, even though there are 660 different versions of the *Bhagavad-gita*. An issue is resolved via evidence, not via how many people accept it, otherwise we would have to argue that the position of Krishna will also never be resolved!

"Prabhupada created GBC to manage ISKCON. It is my understanding this didn't mean a bunch of wannabes sitting on Vyasasanas receiving the pomp and worship... and this still continues today. Who are they kidding? That's why I understand your magazine. With all of that said, there are still many of Prabhupada's disciples in ISKCON who are very advanced, don't sit on Vyasasanas and are not stupid or blind to what is still going on in ISKCON. But they're too busy with sadhana and parikrama, and when you talk to them they don't care about anything but Krsna-katha [...] As for the gurus in Iskcon who sit on Vyasasanas and get the worship...I'm out in the courtyard somewhere else. It's not up to me to protest, if they want to act that way, let 'em."

-Badarayana Das, Oregon, USA

Editor replies:

You are correct that there are many devotees who agree with us, but do not necessarily wish to do anything about it. Hence the IRM was created for those devotees who actively wish to do something, since there are many devotees in ISKCON suffering for want of knowledge and they deserve to know the truth. Just like Srila Prabhupada created ISKCON as a missionary organization to preach, so the IRM also believes we must preach, and there is nothing more important to preach about than Srila Prabhupada, since one cannot reach Krishna without going through Srila Prabhupada and getting his blessings.

No serious follower of Srila Prabhupada will be able to stand by whilst Srila Prabhupada's own name is used to hijack his movement. We therefore invite everyone to work with us to please Srila Prabhupada by re-establishing his original ISKCON.

We welcome all correspondence

Email us: irm@iskconirm.com

Bhakti Charu Swami's 13-point *ritvik* manifesto

The IRM's position is that ISKCON should continue to run today with "no change" from when Srila Prabhupada was on the planet (please read our position paper *The No Change in ISKCON Paradigm*, which can be viewed on our website at: www.iskconirm.com/no_change_in_iskcon_paradigm.htm). At that time, everyone in the movement – *sankirtana* devotees, temple presidents, GBC etc. – simply facilitated new recruits surrendering to, and becoming disciples of, Srila Prabhupada, with Srila Prabhupada taking them back to Godhead. The initiation ceremony itself was devolved to "*ritvik*" representatives who would serve their local temples by simply accepting the new recruit as a disciple who belonged directly to Srila Prabhupada, with the *ritvik* priest having little contact with the initiate. In contrast, the GBC today claims that Srila Prabhupada "intended" for these *ritvik* representatives to succeed him as *diksa* gurus, taking over this function from Srila Prabhupada for new recruits. Hence, today in ISKCON we have "Srila Prabhupada disciples" who were initiated pre-1977, whose Guru is Srila Prabhupada, and "granddisciples" whose gurus are allegedly the successor *diksa* gurus to Srila Prabhupada.

Below we see that in the years following the IRM's formal launch in 1999, one of ISKCON's most prominent gurus, His Holiness Bhakti Charu Swami ("BCS"), has advocated that the relationship between Srila Prabhupada and those joining ISKCON should mirror that which existed when Srila Prabhupada was on the planet – i.e. the IRM's "no change" position:

1. Current GBC initiation system is defective

"... our main problem was introducing a defective initiation system. And that defective system

may have been watered down to some extent but it's still prevailing. After Harikesa fell down in 1998, in 1999 I proposed that it's obvious that we are going in the wrong direction. Now, when you go wrong, when you know you're going in the wrong direction, what do you do? You stop to find the right way. So for the time-being, let's stop giving initiation and find out what is actually the problem and what is the solution to this problem, whether we can find a solution and until then, let us stop." (BCS, Toronto meeting, July 20th, 2003)

2. All ISKCON gurus, including BCS, acting on authority of this defective system

"Your *diksa* guru is giving you *diksa* because the institution of ISKCON decided that he should give *diksa*."

(BCS, Text PAMH06829041, May 19th, 2003)

"I give initiation because I have been asked to do so. If ISKCON tells me, "initiate," I initiate. And if the GBC tells me, "don't initiate," I don't initiate."

(BCS Istagosthi, March 28th, 2006)

[Note: a real *diksa* guru in ISKCON would have to be authorised by Srila Prabhupada himself:

"One should take initiation from a bona fide spiritual master coming in the disciplic succession, who is authorised by his predecessor spiritual master. This is called *diksa-vidhana*."

(*Srimad-Bhagavatam*, 4.8.54, purport)].

3. All initiations should be *ritvik* initiations only

"... Bhakti Marg Maharaja, he is kind of, even, he was telling me yesterday when he gives initiation he tells his disciples that **you are actually Prabhupada's disciple** and I am taking care of you, trying to help you to become engaged in Srila Prabhupada's mission.

Now that's actually the crux of the whole thing, that if everybody understands and makes that point clear to their disciples then I think that a lot of our problems will be solved."

(BCS, Toronto meeting, July 20th, 2003)

4. All ISKCON "gurus" really only *ritviks*

"I make it very clear to them that disciples in ISKCON do not belong to their gurus; they belong to Srila Prabhupada."

(BCS Istagosthi, April 22nd, 2006)

5. ISKCON "gurus" exist only to show up to officiate as *ritviks*

"A devotee joins the movement and is trained and cultivated by ISKCON in the form of the local temple devotees. He is doing fine and being trained up nicely. But then he gets initiated by somebody who comes to that place once in a blue moon, but because he has been initiated by him he begins to think that he is his authority and the local devotees don't mean anything to him anymore."

(BCS, Disciples Meeting, August 1st, 2007)

6. Like a *ritvik*, ISKCON "guru" is simply an agent of the temple

"We must recognize that our first loyalty is to the local temple and the temple authority. And as a spiritual master what should I do? I think as a spiritual master it is my responsibility to reconfirm and re-establish that relationship with the local temple and temple authority."

(BCS, Disciples Meeting, August 1st, 2007)

7. *Diksa* is surrender via spiritual master; that spiritual master is Srila Prabhupada

"*Diksa* is the process through which one actually surrenders to Krsna through the agency and via medium of the representative of Krsna, the spiritual master."

(BCS, Disciples Meeting, August 1st, 2007)

"Why do we hesitate to tell a new comer who is searching for a guru that Srila Prabhupada, the best guru the world has ever seen, is still here, and one can surrender unto him and go back to Godhead very easily?"

(BCS Offering on Srila Prabhupada's Disappearance Day, October 2000)

8. BCS acts as *siksa* (instructing) guru for Srila Prabhupada to facilitate surrender

"Initiation has two objectives. One is to receive the mantra and the other is to formalize surrender. In today's context the important consideration is the surrender. [...] If you are surrendering to me, formalizing your surrender, then what kind of responsibility do I have to you? It is to transmit your surrender to the institution of ISKCON. Generally the guru transmits this to Krsna, but here I am not directly representing Krsna. I am representing Krsna through the via medium of Srila Prabhupada and ISKCON."

(BCS, Disciples Meeting, August 1st, 2007)

[Note: BCS accepts that unlike a *diksa* Guru, he does not transmit the surrender of a disciple to Krishna, but rather he is supposed to help one surrender to Srila Prabhupada, thus acting in a manner no different to how every single devotee acted in ISKCON pre-'77: namely, as *siksa* gurus who helped everyone who joined ISKCON surrender to the *diksa* Guru, Srila Prabhupada].

9. Guru establishes link between Krishna and disciple; that Guru is Srila Prabhupada

"Generally, a guru establishes a link between Krsna and his disciple. [...] Srila Prabhupada, as the pre-eminent acarya, takes you to Krsna and engages you in His service."

(BCS Istagosthi, Text PAMH0: 13658994, June 10th, 2007)

for ISKCON

"Srila Prabhupada will take you to Krsna."

(BCS, Durban disciples meeting, reported on April 7th, 2006)

"I cannot lead you to Krsna."

(BCS Istagosthi, March 28th, 2006)

[**Note:** BCS here confirms that Srila Prabhupada, and not he, is the bona fide spiritual master:

"And if you get a bona fide spiritual master, he will take you to Krsna."

(*The Laws of Nature*, chapter 1)

"It is illegal to become a spiritual master if one is unable to deliver the disciple."

(*Srimad-Bhagavatam*, 2.8.7 purport)]

10. Guru usually takes disciples in his ashram; Srila Prabhupada's ashram is ISKCON

"Usually the guru has an ashram and his disciples come to the ashram and get trained by the guru. [...] ISKCON is Srila Prabhupada's ashram. [...] Generally the guru has an ashram and he hands over the authority of the ashram to one disciple. He appoints a successor. But Srila Prabhupada didn't do that in ISKCON. [...] Rather, Prabhupada wanted us to manage the society collectively through the Governing Body."

(BCS, Disciples Meeting, August 1st, 2007)

[**Note:** The example of the *diksa* guru who would train disciples in his ashram is used by ISKCON to illustrate how the Vedic tradition regarding *diksa* would normally function. BCS admits that now we simply have a bigger ashram, ISKCON, whose Guru is Srila Prabhupada.]

11. Sastra (scripture) mentions we must surrender to Guru; that Guru is Srila Prabhupada

"**Q:** In Bhagavad-gita Krsna tells us to surrender to the spiritual master. Although in the temple we receive guidance from many



Saying one thing, but doing the opposite: BCS enjoying worship at his 2007 "Vyasa-Puja" celebration

senior devotees, still somehow the relation between the guru and disciple is very unique. We have the relation with the temple president and other temple authorities to guide and correct us as spiritual masters but sometimes we can't connect with them in the same way."

A: "[...] Now let us come to your point. **Yes, devotees need a qualified spiritual master and I will say in ISKCON we have the most qualified spiritual master who is Srila Prabhupada.** And everyone in ISKCON is meant to represent Srila Prabhupada. In ISKCON who is the ultimate spiritual master? **You need a spiritual master, but who is that spiritual master? It is Srila Prabhupada.**"

(BCS, Disciples Meeting, August 1st, 2007)

[**Note:** This is a reference to verse 4:34 from *Bhagavad-gita*, traditionally used by the GBC as evidence that we are supposed to surrender to a "living" *diksa* guru. BCS states this verse applies to Srila Prabhupada!]

12. We should be like Christians, with Srila Prabhupada as our Jesus

"What Jesus is to Christianity and what Muhammed is to Islam, Srila Prabhupada should be that to ISKCON."

(BCS, Day 3, LA Seminar, "Questions and Answers", June 11th, 2000)

[**Note:** The above statement from BCS is particularly ironic, considering the IRM is criticised for trying to turn ISKCON into Christianity!]

13. Authority system in ISKCON to continue unchanged post-1977; "gurus" not involved

"And what is the line of authority structure in ISKCON? The line of authority is that Srila Prabhupada is the Founder-Acarya of ISKCON. Where does our ultimate loyalty lie? It lies with Srila Prabhupada. Then Prabhupada pointed out that the GBC is the ultimate managing authority in ISKCON. In the line of authority, next to Srila Prabhupada is the GBC body, and then there is the GBC member; every zone has a GBC member who is the zonal secretary. So we should be loyal to the GBC body and to the GBC member. And then there is the temple unit and in the temple who is the person in charge of the temple? It is the temple president. [...] In this way we have the line of authority."

(BCS, Disciples Meeting, August 1st, 2007)

[**Note:** BCS here lays out a similar authority structure which existed when Srila Prabhupada was on the planet, with no place at all for today's GBC "gurus".]

Conclusion

The IRM's vigorous preaching is having so much influence on ISKCON that the gurus are on the defensive, being forced to accept the principles which the IRM is preaching. We saw other evidence of this in our article in *BTP* 16 ("ISKCON leader comments further"), where ISKCON leader Kripamoya Das proposed that actually Srila Prabhupada was

ISKCON's *diksa* Guru without realising it. BCS is adopting the IRM's position simply to make himself more "Srila Prabhupada-friendly" in order to better attract and retain recruits. In practice, however, these sadly hoodwinked disciples will accept BCS himself as their guru, who, despite all his foregoing admissions, will continue to enjoy Vyasa-puja ceremonies, worship, donations, service, facilities and privileges from his adoring disciples – in short, the very position of being the Guru that he is simultaneously saying should be reserved for Srila Prabhupada!

In the previous issue, we were able to demonstrate that the debate was over using the GBC's own admission that Srila Prabhupada gave no order for their guru program. Now BCS has gone further, and advocated the IRM's "no change" position. Any GBC supporter can thus potentially be defeated simply by presenting these declarations from BCS himself! We therefore have the grotesquely ridiculous situation that IRM members are banned and physically attacked for saying things which are repeated by one of the GBC's leading gurus. Such a state of affairs could only exist in *Kali-yuga*, the age of hypocrisy.

Yes, the debate is indeed over, but the cheating still continues stronger than ever, with those perpetrating the guru hoax now even admitting that Srila Prabhupada, and not they, should be the Guru!

A chronological cornucopia of confusion

When a hoax is perpetrated via a series of fabrications, invented as one goes along, one fallout will be that even those who are supposed to be upholding the hoax will not be sure exactly what they are supposed to be doing, and why. The Great Guru Hoax in ISKCON exemplifies this phenomenon, with the guru hoaxers descending into confusion, contradiction and outright absurdity, the further the hoax continues. We detail below, how from the very beginning right up until the present day, the guru hoaxers have become so afflicted with confusion and madness due to the continuation of this offensive guru circus, that they have difficulty distinguishing whether they are coming or going, and indeed whether or not they are even gurus!

We weren't sure – 1977

"Srila Prabhupada's disappearance left us struggling to understand exactly how to continue the initiation process. [...] As usual, I appeared to vacillate between the strong opinions of others." (Satsvarupa Das Goswami, self-authorised guru, ISKCON in the 1970s, 'November 17-29, 1977', GN Press, 1997)

We are told repeatedly that Srila Prabhupada had 'clearly' instructed his disciples to become successor gurus. Yet we see here the founder of the Guru Hoax, Satsvarupa Das, admitting that they had no idea what they should be doing, and instead he simply flip-flopped depending on what others were saying.

We did the greatest disservice – 1980

"Actually Prabhupada never appointed any gurus. He appointed eleven *ritviks*. He never appointed them gurus. Myself and the

other GBC have done the greatest disservice to this movement the last three years because we interpreted the appointment of *ritviks* as the appointment of gurus." (Tamala Krishna Goswami, self-authorised guru, Pyramid House confession, Topanga Canyon, December 3rd, 1980)

Three years later, another architect of the Guru Hoax, Tamal Krishna Goswami, admits that actually they had only ever been appointed *ritviks*, and taking this appointment of *ritviks* as the appointment of gurus, was the "greatest disservice to this movement." Yet this appointment of gurus remains in place to this date, since these *ritviks*, such as Tamala Krishna Goswami himself, never relinquished their appointed guru posts (unless having been caught in gross illicit activity). Rather, these self-admitted bogus gurus stayed in their falsely appointed posts to help authorise all the new ISKCON gurus which followed subsequently, and three of them are still at large today. Therefore, the "greatest disservice to this movement" also remains in place to this day in ISKCON.

Guru falldown perplexity

"And when it comes to the subject of gurus, who trusts the spiritual guidance of the GBC? [...] To boost your confidence: On one hand the GBC encourages you to be initiated by a bona fide, authorized ISKCON guru and worship him like God. On the other, it has an elaborate system of laws to invoke from time to time when your ISKCON-authorized guru falls down. One might perhaps be forgiven for thinking that for all the laws and resolutions the role of guru is still a perplexity even for the GBC."

(HH Jayadvaita Swami, GBC voted-in guru, Where the Ritvik People Are Right, 1996)

As the unauthorised gurus began to rapidly fall down, the GBC invented a bunch of "laws" detailing how gurus can fall, how they can be "rectified," how we can still worship them in a limited way whilst they are fallen, how we can worship them in an unlimited way later on following their "rectification," and so on.

Stopping initiation by initiating even more – 1999

"After Harikesa fell down in 1998, in 1999 I proposed that it's obvious that we are going in the wrong direction. Now, when you go wrong, when you know you're going in the wrong direction, what do you do? You stop to find the right way. So for the time-being, let's stop giving initiation and find out what is actually the problem and what is the solution to this problem, whether we can find a solution and until then, let us stop." (Bhakti Caru Swami, GBC voted-in guru, recording, July 20th, 2003, Toronto)

Following another big guru falldown, Bhakti Charu Swami ("BCS") admits this meant they should stop initiating right away, as they were "going in the wrong direction." To this end he decided to lead the way by setting the example, by immediately conducting the biggest initiation ceremony seen in ISKCON in fifteen years!

Largest Initiation since days of Bhagavan before international assembly

By Vipramukhya Swami (Bhaktivedanta Manor, UK) - August 14, 1999:

Bhakti Charu Swami, Radhanath Swami and Bhakti Vikasa Swami initiated 32 devotees this morning at Bhaktivedanta Manor, England, the day before the London Rathayatra. It was the largest initiation to take place at

Bhaktivedanta Manor [...] (Chakra website)

And yet BCS has the cheek to pontificate regarding "truth and honesty":

"A vaisnava is honest and truthful. Therefore he is fearless!"

(BCS Letter, April 3rd, 2007).

The definition of "*acharya*," or spiritual master, is "one who teaches by example." Since BCS's "example" has shown to be diametrically opposed to what he "teaches," we can safely assume that he is not qualified in any way to act as an "*acharya*". And by his own definition of honesty and truthfulness, he does not even qualify as a Vaisnava either, having confessed that the current initiation system in ISKCON is completely wrong and should stop altogether; and yet he continues initiating in large numbers to this current day, never having stopped to "find the right way," preferring instead to "continue going in the wrong direction."

Am I saying I am a guru? – 2005

Sankarshan Das, a GBC-voted-in guru, gets confused over whether he is claiming he is a guru or not:

"I just visited your site for the first time. I can't believe it! The way you promote yourself as a bonafide guru, even selling your own picture." (E-mail from John Garcia to Sankarshan Das Adhikari, 14/10/2005)

In reply, Sankarshan Das states:

"So far as I know I am not advertising that I am a guru. Kindly point out to me where I am advertising that I am a guru and I shall see about changing it." (E-mail from Sankarshan Das Adhikari to John Garcia, 15/10/2005)



However, the above statement is made in relation to his website on which he says:

"Thought for the Day" is brought to you by Sankarshan Das Adhikari, author of The Ultimate Self Realization Course (TM) and an authorized spiritual master in the Brahma-Madhva-Gaudiya sampradaya, the world's oldest lineage of gurus". (Sankarshan Das Adhikari website, emphasis added - archived)

In addition, our confused "sum total of the demigods" ISKCON guru also states:

"Srila Prabhupada personally told me that I could advertise myself as a spiritual master, and you are telling me that I should not. Should I follow you or should I follow Srila Prabhupada?
(E-mail from Sankarshan Das Adhikari to John Garcia, 25/10/2005)

So if Srila Prabhupada had actually told Sankarshan Das Adhikari to advertise himself as a spiritual master, why did he initially claim he did not follow this supposed advice and state that "I am not advertising that I am guru"?

Should we be called gurus? – 2006

"[...] 'Spiritual masters' I hate to use the word, I don't like it so much I would rather prefer *sannyasis*, senior *vaisnavas*, GBCs; when they are preaching in public they should be advertised, but such advertisement is necessary but not on the basis of their being gurus" (Sivarama Swami [SRS], "GBC resolutions on the worship of guru", podcast July 21st, 2006)

Faith in the ISKCON guru system has now reached such a low, that an ISKCON guru himself actually hates to use the word "guru" to refer to himself, and prefers that

they are called anything but this! And yet another ISKCON leader says that "guru" is not even a position in ISKCON, though, in contradiction with SRS, it is alright to at least "advertise" it as such:

"The event, staged by the students, was advertised as: 'Interview with a Guru' which made me smile considering my previous blog on the use of the word in ISKCON. However, this was advertising and not social designation."
(Kripamoya Das, The Vaishnava Voice, October 12th, 2007)

So confused are they about their crumbling guru system, they cannot even agree what status, if at all, should be given to the "guru" title!

Grappling with being a guru – 2007

"I have grappled with being a *diksa* guru [...] I've put out a public moratorium on carrying out further *diksa* initiations. I'm stopping at about 100 disciples. I'm not spiritually advanced enough to have more."
(HH Mukunda Goswami, "Vyasa Puja" offering to HH Jayapataka Swami, 2007)

Thus, having been artificially elevated by the GBC to the position of a *diksa* guru (initiating spiritual master) who is worshipped as Srila Prabhupada's successor, HH Mukunda Goswami now tells us that imitating Srila Prabhupada's position is something he has been "grappling" with, and further that he would cease to function as a spiritual master should his disciple headcount exceed 100.

We are unaware of any teaching from Srila Prabhupada which states that a bona fide spiritual master "grapples" with being a spiritual master. Indeed, the very definition of a bona fide spiritual master is that he is a completely *self-realised* soul.

Gurus are actually *ritviks*! – 2007

"If for some unfortunate reason gurus leave ISKCON, at least the institutional empowerment doesn't go with them, it stays here, and devotees should be wise enough and selective enough in that case to stay in Srila Prabhupada's line, and Srila Prabhupada's direct service is going on."
(Sivarama Swami [SRS] Initiation Lecture, Bhaktivedanta Manor, January 7th, 2007, emphasis added)

Here an ISKCON guru tries to justify why ISKCON devotees should remain in ISKCON, even if their guru hoaxers fall down by claiming that the "institutional empowerment" of the initiation conferred upon disciples does not leave with the bogus gurus when they themselves leave ISKCON. But this would mean that the real empowerment for the initiation obviously cannot come from the bogus gurus themselves, but from some other source, since nothing changes even if your "guru" leaves – your initiation stays intact. However, this can only happen if the "initiator" is simply a functionary for the initiation ceremony, and not a bona fide *diksa* guru himself – and such a functionary, who simply imparts an initiation without affecting the status of the initiation even if he himself later leaves ISKCON, is called a "*RITVIK*". Hence, SRS is here conceding the *ritvik* argument in order to try and keep hapless disciples, whose "gurus" may deviate in the future, to stay in ISKCON.

SRS also claims that one can give "direct service" to Srila Prabhupada, even if there is no longer any connection to the "guru" who "initiated" you. This again means that actually Srila Prabhupada must be one's *diksa* Guru, since we do not require an intermediary guru through

which to DIRECTLY serve Srila Prabhupada. The ability to render DIRECT service to a Guru, even though one is not connected to the person who "initiated" one, can only happen if the "initiator" in question was a "*RITVIK*" who initiated on behalf of the Guru to whom we are actually performing the DIRECT service.

Conclusion

So from start to finish, the gurus themselves admit that:

- a) They struggled to know what should be done.
- b) What they did was the greatest disservice to the movement, a disservice which continues to this present day.
- c) A whole series of seemingly perplexing laws are needed to "manage" gurus.
- d) They should have stopped initiating as they were going in the wrong direction.
- e) They are not sure if they are calling themselves gurus, or better still, don't call us gurus at all!
- f) They are grappling with being gurus, and thus have decided to stop when they reach a certain number of disciples.
- g) We can understand that when the guru falls down, this does not matter since he is effectively no more than a *ritvik*!

Such self-confessed uncertainty by ISKCON's Governing Body is only to be expected when one is trying to prop up a guru hoax, rather than institute the *ritvik* system that was actually prescribed by Srila Prabhupada for ISKCON. Such madness and confusion can only result when one fabricates an illegal guru system in direct disobedience to the order of Srila Prabhupada; such confusion could certainly not arise if one was actually following the perfect orders of Srila Prabhupada, to keep him as the only *diksa* Guru for ISKCON.

Physical presence of guru not required (unless it's Srila Prabhupada!)

"I explained to her that there are two different forms of the spiritual master. One is called his *vapuh*, his physical presence. And the other is called his *vani*, his vibrational presence. Although the physical presence is more easily experienced and appreciated, the vibrational presence, although more subtle and difficult to experience, is many, many times more important. [...] *Vani*, the vibrational presence is the instructions we receive from the spiritual master. This can be in the form of something he personally told us or it can be a general instruction that he has given to everyone. The instruction can be spoken. It can be on an audio or video recording. Or it can be written in a letter, book, or article. No matter in which way the instruction is given and received, it is fully active and potent. By comparative analysis it can be seen that *vani* is more important than *vapuh*. [...] The spiritual master cannot be in every place at once."

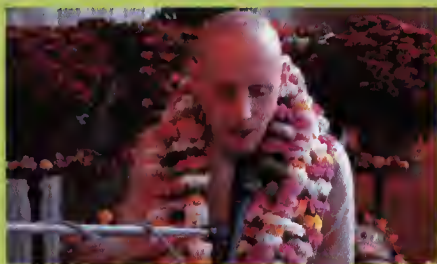
The above sounds like an explanation from an IRM member as to why we do not need a physically present "living" guru, since Srila Prabhupada can still guide us. But actually it is an explanation by one of the GBC's unauthorised "living" gurus as to how someone can connect with HIM, when he is not physically present before them, since even ISKCON "living gurus" cannot be everywhere at once:

"Today in the last few minutes before we departed from the ISKCON center in Kaunas, Lithuania for the next stop of our 2006-2007 World Lecture Series Tour, a young teenage girl who had been regularly attending my lectures in Kaunas asked me a very important question. She asked me how she could maintain in my absence the same enthusiasm for Krishna consciousness that she was feeling in my presence."

Both quotes are from GBC voted-in-guru Sankarshan Das Adhikari, from a lecture dated September 9th, 2007. So a young teenage girl interested in Krishna consciousness can connect with Sankarshan anytime, even though Sankarshan may not be physically present before her, but the same teenage girl can NOT connect with Srila Prabhupada in exactly the same way, *because* Srila Prabhupada is not physically present before her, and that's why she needs Sankarshan in the first place! One continues to constantly be amazed at how ISKCON's unauthorised gurus will engage in such shameless hypocrisy, in their pursuit of acquiring followers and disciples. What makes it even worse is that Sankarshan then goes on to justify his standing as an ISKCON guru by stating: **"Just as my spiritual master was blessed with the order to spread Krishna consciousness to the English-speaking world, he blessed me and his other disciples with the order to become gurus and deliver the whole world."**

1) This "order" to Sankarshan (or anyone else for that matter) to replace Srila Prabhupada as the *diksa*, or initiating, Guru of ISKCON has never been produced.

2) Sankarshan believed in this phantom order from Srila Prabhupada to become a successor *diksa* guru so much, that rather than acting on it, he disobeyed it for a quarter of a century after Srila Prabhupada's departure, and instead waited for the "order to become guru" by receiving the necessary number of votes from the GBC to become one of their voted-in-gurus. Clearly, he must be so powerful that he can disobey the so-called order he received from Srila Prabhupada for such a long time, and still deliver the whole world!



Sankarshan Das Adhikari:
Displaying modesty as
saviour of the whole world!

**HGD A.C. Bhaktivedanta
Swami Prabhupada:**
The real saviour of the
whole world



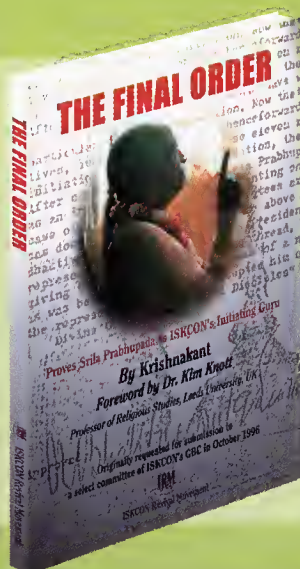
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the profound issues it raises demand
consideration at all levels. Every devotee
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**From the Foreword by Professor
Kim Knott, Head of Religious Studies,
Leeds University, UK**